

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement of January 14, 2003, and the Office communication of August 22, 2003, have been received and reviewed. Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the above-referenced application and are all subject to the Election of Species Requirement.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on September 17, 2001, but that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 that accompanied that Information Disclosure Statement has not yet been returned to the undersigned attorney. It is respectfully requested that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 evidencing the same be returned to the undersigned attorney.

Election of Species Requirement

As noted above, claims 1-34 of the above-referenced application are subject to an election of species requirement. The Office has again identified two groups of species of invention.

The first group appears to include the following species:

- 1) defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film before positioning the preformed polymeric film over a semiconductor device;
- 2) defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film while (*i.e.*, simultaneously with) positioning the preformed polymeric film over a semiconductor device; and
- 3) defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film after the preformed polymeric film has been positioned over a semiconductor device.

The second group apparently includes the following species:

- 1) introducing conductive material into at least one aperture of a preformed polymeric film by chemical vapor depositing;

- 2) introducing conductive material into at least one aperture of a preformed polymeric film by physical vapor depositing; and
- 3) introducing conductive material into at least one aperture of a preformed polymeric film in the form of a preformed conductive structure.

It is respectfully submitted that deposition processes other than those identified in the first and second species of the second group might also be used to introduce conductive material into an aperture of a preformed polymeric film, including, without limitation, other known deposition techniques, such as electrolytic, electroless, or immersion plating processes, and the like.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the first species of the first group; *i.e.*, defining at least one aperture through a preformed polymeric film before positioning the preformed polymeric film over a semiconductor device and to prosecute the first species of the second group; *i.e.*, depositing conductive material into the at least one aperture.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-22 reads on the elected species of the first group of inventions, with claim 1 being the most generic claim of the species.

It is also respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-8, 10-22, and 23-34 reads on the elected species of the second group, with claim 1 being the most generic claim of the species.

It is further submitted that claim 1 is generic to each of the three species that have been identified by the Office in the first group, as well as to all three of the species that have been identified by the Office in the second group. In the event that claim 1 is found to be allowable and remains generic to each of the identified species, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 11, and 23-34, which read on the third species of the first group, and claim 9, which reads on the third species of the second group, must also be allowed.

An early action on the merits of claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 12-22 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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